

REMARKS

Claims 3-5 and 7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 5 and 7 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gupta (U.S. 6,917,965). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Gupta fails to disclose or suggest a system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system, including a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one information item that is assigned a set of metadata, wherein the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress, as recited in independent claim 3 and similarly recited in claims 5 and 7.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Gupta shows a deadline and cites to column 8, lines 51-54. The Office Action further asserts that the annotations are considered reminders and obligations. However, Gupta, at column 8, lines 51-54 merely discloses a user-controlled feature that allows a user to filter file annotations by the date of creation of those files. One having ordinary skill in the art would not interpret this filtering feature to be any sort of obligations or deadlines. Although a message can be set to "expire" after a certain period, such expiration is not a deadline, as commonly understood in the art. One having ordinary skill in the art knows that a deadline is defined as: "The time by something must be done or completed." (see http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary_1861602838/deadline.html.) The expiration feature in Gupta is merely a filtering of email messages based on a time stamp without any regard to a task to be done or completed. Thus, Gupta's time filtering feature cannot be reasonably interpreted to be a deadline or obligation.

Further, the Office Action asserts that it is unclear how the claims relate to "priorities and events of particular information items." Such an argument is supported by the phrase "the metadata relates to priorities and events of information items and includes at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an obligation," as recited in independent claims 3, 5 and 7. The deadline, reminder, deferral and obligation refer to priorities and events of particular information items. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that Gupta fails to disclose or suggest a system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system, including a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one information item assigned a set of metadata, wherein the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress, as recited in independent claim 3 and similarly recited in claims 5 and 7.

Support for such features is found, for example, at least at page 5, lines 6-11, page 30, lines 19-23, page 22, lines 16-18 and page 9, lines 3-7 of the specification. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 3, 5 and 7 define patentable subject matter. Claim 4 depends from claim 3, and therefore, is patentable for the same reason, as well as for the additional features it recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3-5 and 7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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TJP:EXC/lah

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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